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Date: March 15, 2021  
To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee  
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director  
Re: SB 727 – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave  
- OPPOSE

Delmarva Chicken Association (formerly Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.), the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware **opposes** SB 727 and asks for an unfavorable committee report.

SB 727 would repeal the exemptions from the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act for several categories, including agriculture workers. The bill also requires employers to allow employees to use sick leave during a public health emergency, requires employers to provide earned sick and safe leave on the date of the public health emergency was declared (retroactive) and requires earned sick and safe leave regardless of the employees' length of employment.

During the original discussions over paid sick leave, agriculture workers were exempted due to the difficulties that would be had by farms trying to administer this program – both burdensome financial and time resources.

This pandemic has had a tremendous impact on most people, especially agriculture – the people who are providing the food on our plates. Now is not the time to add additional expectations to our agricultural businesses around the state. DCA asks that the agriculture worker exemption stay in place.

Based on this grave concern of losing that exemption, DCA ask for an **unfavorable** committee report on SB 727.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at [porter@dcachicken.com](mailto:porter@dcachicken.com) or 302-222-4069 or Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates, 410-263-7882.